objective optical system for introducing an optical image of the illuminated object [incorporated in insertion units thereof];

first and second imaging apparatuses having first and second imaging devices for picking up optical images produced by said first and second endoscopes, respectively, and outputting first and second signals, respectively;

a video processing unit to which said first and second imaging apparatuses are removably connected [so that they can be disconnected freely] and which processes [a signal] the first and second signals to produce a standard video signal;

a display means for displaying images of the object according to [an input] the standard video signal;

first and second timing signal generation circuits, <u>respectively</u> incorporated in said first and second imaging apparatuses, for generating timing signals used to drive said imaging devices; and first and second phase adjustment circuits for adjusting the phases of the timing signals so as to compensate [a signal delay] <u>for signal delays</u> occurring over first and second signal transmission lines to which said first and second imaging devices are linked and over which a signal is transmitted.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment corrects certain typographical and grammatical errors contained in the specification and claims. None of the amendments add new matter to the application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 2, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

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